



Arizona Game and Fish Department

Wildlife Matters

Legislative Monthly

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Legislative Session Update

Operating Under the Influence (OUI)

S1080 passed the Senate Transportation Committee as amended on 02/28/08

Picture Lake Havasu on a sunny day and you might think of college students with cases of beer on board, racing up and down the waterways. You might say to yourself, "It's just harmless fun." But operating a boat while impaired is just as dangerous — and just as illegal — as drinking while driving a car.

The legal limit for blood alcohol is .08 in both cases. The penalties are similar, too; like driving under the influence, operating a boat under the influence is a Class One misdemeanor.



Proposed Senate Bill 1080; OUI

S1080- Operating Under the Influence; Watercraft

Historic Alcohol Involvement in Arizona Fatalities

Year	Alcohol- related Fatalities	Total Fatalities
1998	7 (44%)	16
1999	2 (22%)	9
2000	4 (33%)	12
2001	3 (43%)	7
2002	3 (38%)	8
2003	2 (29%)	7
2004	4 (33%)	12
2005	2 (40%)	5
2006	4 (29%)	14
2007	4 (50%)	8

Since 1998, Arizona's average is 36% of all fatalities (35 out of 98) involve alcohol.

Total Alcohol-related Accidents

Year	Alcohol-related Accidents
2003	37
2004	53
2005	30
2006	41
2007	On pending

Total OUI Arrests

Year	Statewide OUI Arrests
2003	325
2004	438
2005	375
2006	535
2007	On pending

Come enjoy the wildlife, outdoors and natural heritage of Arizona!

Family-friendly Tres Rios Nature Festival to be held March 15-16 in Avondale

The annual Tres Rios Nature and Earth Festival will be held at the Arizona Game and Fish Department's Base and Meridian (B&M) Wildlife Area in Avondale on Saturday and Sunday, March 15-16.

Festival hours are 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. both days. Admission is free.

Held near the confluence of the Gila, Salt and Agua Fria rivers, the festival is held in cooperation with the Arizona Game and Fish Department, Luke Air Force Base, local communities and other organizations to celebrate the wildlife, ecology, outdoor heritage and history of the area.



March Events



Visitors will be able to:

- Attend nature talks and hear from experts about wildlife, the outdoors and area history.
- Participate in guided beginners' bird walks or interpretive nature hikes.
- Attend a free fishing clinic provided by the Arizona Game and Fish Department.
- Ride in a canoe and learn about boating in Arizona.
- Take self-guided hikes, including one to Monument Hill.
- Explore the booths of wildlife and conservation organizations.
- Listen to local entertainers and sample a diverse food menu.
- Allow your children to experience an extensive children's area with hands-on crafts, contests, kids' nature trail, and more.

The Base and Meridian Wildlife Area is located adjacent to Phoenix International Raceway in Avondale, five miles south of I-10 on Avondale Boulevard (7602 S. Avondale Blvd.). For more information, visit www.tresriosnaturefestival.com or call (623) 204-2130.

Arizona's endangered condor flock to grow

Once a year, people get a rare opportunity in Arizona that very few other places offer: to witness the release into the wild of endangered California condors. The public is invited to attend this year's event on Saturday, March 15 at 11 a.m. when four condors will be released at the Vermilion Cliffs National Monument.



"It's always a thrill to add more individuals to this growing flock, but these birds will face many challenges growing up, especially the danger of lead poisoning, their leading cause of death," says Chris Parish, condor field project supervisor with The Peregrine Fund, the

Festival in Avondale; March 15-16



group releasing the birds.

The California condor has gone from only 22 birds left in the world in 1982 to nearly 300 today. The original 22 birds were captured in an effort to breed and save the species. Condors produced in captivity are now periodically released at sites in California, Mexico and at the Vermilion Cliffs in Arizona.

"The California condor is one of the great endangered species successes in the country, and to be able to share that with the public is very rewarding," says Kathy Sullivan, a condor biologist with the Arizona Game and Fish Department. "It is exhilarating to witness the release and watch the birds fly free."

Condors were added to the federal endangered species list in 1967. The condor is the largest flying land bird in North America. The birds can weigh up to 26 pounds and have a wingspan of up to 9 1/2 feet. Condors were first reintroduced in Arizona in 1996, and they now number 61 in the state. Visitors at the Grand Canyon are often able to observe the birds during the spring and summer, and in the Vermilion Cliffs during the winter.

Lead poisoning is the leading cause of death in condors and the main obstacle to a self-sustaining population in Arizona. Studies show that lead shot and bullet fragments found in game carcasses and gut piles are the main source of lead in condors.

The Arizona Game and Fish Department, and its partners the Arizona Deer Association, Arizona Elk Society, Arizona Antelope Foundation, Arizona Desert Bighorn Sheep Society, and the Arizona Chapter of the National Wild Turkey Federation, encourage hunters to continue their proud tradition of wildlife conservation by using non-lead ammunition in condor range (Game Management Units 9, 10, 12A/B, and 13A/B).

The department started offering free non-lead ammunition in 2005 to hunters drawn for hunts in the condor's core range, which includes Game Management Units 12 A/B and 13A. Surveys show that more than 80 percent of hunters took measures last year to reduce the amount of lead available to condors versus 60 percent in 2006.

To view the condor release, drive north on Highway 89 out of Flagstaff. Turn left (west) onto Highway 89A toward Jacob Lake and the North Rim of the Grand Canyon. Drive about 25 miles past Marble Canyon until you turn right onto House Rock

We Have Moved!



Valley Road (BLM Road 1065). Travel about three miles to a shaded viewing area on the right. On top of the cliffs to your east will be the location where the condors are released. The release site is approximately one mile from the viewing point. Several spotting scopes will be available to the public, although participants are encouraged to bring their own binoculars or spotting scopes for better viewing.

The condor reintroduction in Arizona is a joint project of many partners, including Arizona Game and Fish Department, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, The Peregrine Fund, Bureau of Land Management, National Park Service, Kaibab National Forest and Utah Division of Wildlife Resources.

For more information on California condors, visit www.azgfd.gov/condor.

We have Moved!

The new Commission/Department headquarters has moved from the Greenway Rd Headquarters to Ben Avery Shooting Facility on November 13th. The Headquarters' new address and phone number are:

5000 W. Carefree Highway

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*Department Staff have contributed to this publication in the form of articles and
photographs.
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Legislative Affairs



